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# 2015-09-18 Minutes of the Academic Senate

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## University of Dayton Academic Senate Meeting APPROVED Minutes

18 September 2015

3:30-5:30 in KU Ballroom East

Carissa Krane, Professor and President, Academic Senate

### **In Attendance:**

#### **Senators:**

Anloague, Benson (Interim Provost), Biswas, Bobrowski, Dingle, Dunne, Eustace, Foust, Gabbe, Goodman, Jacobs, K. Kelly, Mary Kay Kelly, Kelsch, Krane (President), Lahoud, Mashburn, Merithew, Picca (Vice President), Pierce, Rojas, Rush, Seielstad, Slade (Secretary), Smith, Spaulding, Valenzano, Watkins, Whitaker, Wu, Zhang

#### **Guests:**

Brad Duncan, Mary Lou Andrews, Judith Huacuja, Carolyn Phelps, David Wright, Michael Krug, Tom Westendorf, Jennifer Creech, Jim Farrelly, Mark Nielsen, Bob Kearne, Shelby Quindiran, Corinne Daprano, Shannon Driskell, Aicha Elyamami, Lynne Yengulalp

### **Opening Prayer:**

Andy Slade opened with the prayer.

### **Introductions of all Senators.**

### **Remembering Professor Dennis Greene**

The Senate observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Dennis.

Brief description of Senate documents and their location on the Senate website and process for bringing items to ECAS which sets the agenda for the Senate.

### **Approval of the Minutes from 17 April 2015.**

Approved by unanimous consent.

### **Presentation on Course Re-take Policy**

Presentation by Tom Westendorf, Registrar and Jennifer Creech, Associate Registrar (Attached as addendum to the minutes).

Robust Discussion ensued and many questions were raised. Among them are,

- Why is the policy as generous as it is?
- Does a drop late policy have an impact on a retake policy?
- Are all courses listed on the transcript?
- What impact does the re-take policy have on international students and what impacts might a revised policy have on that particular population? Are there

- other populations at the University that might be affected by a change in the policy and to what extent might they be affected?
- Is the registrar's office able to model the impact of any changes in the policy to assess impact on student success and persistence?
  - Are there any notable trends in course retakes year over year?
  - Is it possible to get a breakdown of the grades that are being replaced?
  - Is it possible to get a DFW rate for courses over time?
  - Of students who use the policy, for how many credits do they use it? Is it more likely to be one course (3 credits) or 5 (15 credits)?
  - Are retakes taken with the same professor?
  - What are the reasons for looking at this policy now?
    - Responses include: The Associate Deans's memo; policy is 20 years old
  - Some key questions: 1. The calculation of the GPA (Sem vs. Cumulative GPA); 2. Should the number of hours available for retakes change? 3. What grade should be recorded?

#### Comments--

- Institutions in our peer group may have policies in addition to the course retake policy that, when taken as a whole, render "the generosity" of our policy more equitable with the peer's. We must be careful in benchmarking our policy that we are comparing like kinds.
- We should note that our policy is applied equitably to all students.
- The policy refers, in part, to how GPAs are calculated and students often misunderstand the policy as is so any changes must be clearly communicated to students and advisors.
- Change in the policy may promote mastery of material is highly sequential courses

### **Consideration of Draft Charge to APC**

#### Examination of the UD Course Retake Policy

#### Charge to the APC

ECAS requests that the APC conduct a thorough review of the academic merits of the current Course Retake Policy at the University of Dayton.

This review should seek to answer two questions:

(1) Does the policy represent the appropriate level of academic standards for UD undergraduate students taking into consideration one UD goal of assisting students be successful?

(2) Is the policy able to be implemented and administered without serious unintended consequences?

If the answer is 'no' or 'unclear' to either, the review should recommend policy revisions.

In particular, the APC should

- ☐ Investigate the academic purpose of such a policy
  - ☐ Investigate the scope of the usage of the policy
  - ☐ Assess the academic desirable and undesirable impacts of the policy
  - ☐ Compare the policy to the policies of our peer institutions
  - ☐ Describe any recurrent advising issues affecting students and advisors relative to the policy (opting to fail a course because of the policy, misunderstanding how grades are reported to graduate and professional schools)
  - ☐ Recommend any necessary changes—if any-- to the policy and supply a rationale for those changes
- In conducting this work, the APC may want to consult with the Registrar and Associate Registrar, with the Associate and Assistant Deans of the College and the Schools, with SGA, Graduate Academic Affairs, and with others as needed. As part of its report to ECAS, the APC should summarize the process it has used in conducting its work, summarize UD's policy and how it compares to our peers's policy, recommend specific changes (if any) to the policy and supply a rationale for those changes.

ECAS would like this work to be complete in early March, 2016.

The Draft Charge was approved by the Academic Senate. ECAS will present the charge to the APC.

## **Committee Reports**

### **APC**

Joe Valenzano, Chair

The APC meets weekly: Wednesdays 10:05-11:05 in KU 311.

MEETING DATES: 2, 9, and 16 September 2015 (3 meetings)

--discussed the CAP 2yr. Evaluation, noting we will receive information from the CAPC later this term

--discussed the draft of an Undergraduate Certificate Policy and hope to bring the document to the Senate this Fall

--discussed a program change proposal from the School of Education and Health Sciences for a Middle Childhood Education Intervention Specialist Program

--voted to send the program change proposal from the School of Education and Health Sciences for a Middle Childhood Education Intervention Specialist Program back to ECAS with our recommendation of approval

## **SAPC**

Myrna Gabbe, Chair

Our first meeting was Wednesday 16 September 2015.

Meet Wednesdays in Humanities 472

Task: To review UD's document on Political/Electoral Activities, Policies, and Practices.

Rationale: It has been observed that our students are not very politically active, and it is understood that the university is an ideal place for students to become political beings and to learn how to respectfully engage their political adversaries. But in order to protect UD's tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, UD must comply with certain restrictions regarding political campaign activity on campus.

As it stands, however, UD's interpretation of this tax code appears to be too restrictive. Under activities that are not permitted, the policy states: "Any and all activities that favor or oppose one or more candidates for public office".

SAPC will investigate whether the policy is based on a legal interpretation that is too conservative. But, it may also be that the policy is simply unclear and that it is misunderstood by students and other members of the UD community.

Thus, we also determined that the policy could use some clarification.

To this end, we have invited representatives from the Legal, Student Affairs, the Finance/Accounting office to our next meeting, as well as Dean Peirce.

Timeline: SAPC is to make recommendations by the end of fall semester, 2015.

## **FAC**

Caroline Merithew, Chair

FAC has not yet met but will meet Thursday 24 September 2015 at 2:00 pm in HM 457.

Major issues to be addressed include UNRC procedures and Clinical Faculty Titles.

## **ECAS**

Carissa Krane, Chair

### Tentative Academic Senate Discussion/Presentation Schedule for 2015-2016

- Sept 18: Retake Policy presentation: Tom Westendorf and Jennifer Creech
- Oct 16: 1.) Joint ELC/Academic Senate Meeting: BOT debrief  
2.) UDiT Authentication update: Tom Skill
- Nov 13: 1.) Academic Research Support; Research Council and Seed Grants: John Leland  
2.) Discussion of SET: David Wright and LTC Team
- Dec 11: 1.) Information Literacy Report-Heidi Gauder  
2.) CAP 2 year assessment plan report: Sawyer Hunley and Lee Dixon  
Chair of CAP-C
- Jan 22: 1.) Joint ELC/Academic Senate Meeting: BOT debrief  
2.) Optimization and Procurement Update: Andy Horner
- Feb 19: 1.) Faculty Development initiative: Academic Integrity  
Faculty Development Committee (Deb Bickford, David Wright, etc.)  
2.) Update on HLC preparation: Carolyn Phelps (HLC team)
- Mar 11: 1.) Special Advisor to the Provost on Climate Progress Report: Caroline Merithew  
2.) Annual review of maternity leave policy: Carolyn Phelps
- Apr 15: End of the year reports

Other Topics considered by ECAS and Subcommittee assignments:

UNRC function: FAC

Political/Electoral Activities Policies and Practices: SAPC

Undergraduate Certificate Policy: APC

SET: David Wright and SET Support Team

Faculty Titles Policy: proposal from SEHS----FAC

New Degree Program in Teacher Ed: proposal from SEHS----APC

Course Retake Policy: APC and SAPC

## **Discussion from the Floor**

Items discussed include,

- Undergraduate Academic Certificates
- Strategic Plan for Graduate Academic Programs and a request for information on the actions of the units
  - Responses from the Deans of SEHS, SOE, and CAS.
- Promotion structure for non-tenure track full time faculty and length of appointment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Andrew Slade, Secretary, Academic Senate